

tells consumers what outstanding credit accounts they have open, such as student loans or credit cards, perhaps a car or home loan. Unfortunately, it tells Americans little else. On the other hand, your credit score, which our legislation makes available, has the critical information consumers need to know.

This score is the very first point of entry into our entire financial system which rates each and every one of us. It is a number that banks, lenders, and large financial firms have easy access to, while hard-working Americans—the engine of our economy—do not have access to it. A credit score affects consumers' interest rates, monthly payments on home loans, and can even affect a consumer's ability to buy a car, rent an apartment or get phone or Internet service. They can be paying interest rates on their home loan, car loan, or student loan which are two to three times higher because of their credit score. This inequity absolutely needs to be fixed if Americans are to take control of their finances. How do we expect them to do that if they do not know if their credit score is bad or good?

Mr. President, I will be insisting on a vote because we must put consumers back in control of their finances by offering Americans annual access to their credit score when they access their free annual credit report.

I know lobbyists have been calling everyone in the Capitol. These credit reporting agencies have misled Americans for years, and now their lobbyists are trying to mislead my colleagues in the Senate. They are making calls and asking Members to fight this transparency and coming up with all sorts of phony arguments. The truth is, this amendment accomplishes what the television commercials and their fine print have claimed for years—the offer of a free credit score.

Our bipartisan amendment would simply require that a credit score be included when a consumer accesses their free annual credit report once per year from each agency. This would provide some context for consumers who access their free annual credit report and allow them to take responsibility for their financial situation.

Since we filed this amendment—and I want to thank the Presiding Officer who has joined me on this amendment—credit reporting agencies and their lobbyists have been hard at work perpetuating fine-print arguments. They claim our amendment would confuse consumers; that the information belongs to the agency and not the people; and they have even been threatening Members it will cost them jobs in their particular State.

I don't have to tell those watching and my colleagues that those arguments are overstated and are really no grounds for keeping Americans from having access to their individual credit score. According to credit reporting agencies and their lobbyists, providing

a free score for transparency and therefore a sense of financial standing simply would distract and confuse the American consumer.

How can they say these scores would confuse Americans, even though they are happy to sell them that same information? These same lobbyists we are discussing also claim that credit scores belong to them. In other words, a credit score to gauge the creditworthiness of a consumer, based upon their personal information, is the property of the credit reporting agency, not the consumer. So, in other words, they are making the argument it belongs to the agency, not to the individual who creates the credit score.

I can't help but wonder: Would a doctor say someone's blood pressure reading is their information, not their patient's?

I have to say I am disappointed to hear these credit reporting agencies are even making the suggestion that this amendment might result in job losses in their particular States. These are tough times, and who wouldn't be moved by the argument about jobs. But what they do not tell you when they make that argument is that they opposed the 2003 law that required disclosure of consumers' credit reports and the industry has tripled its business since that time. It has tripled because consumers have gotten engaged. They care about those credit reports. And I would predict that if we have free credit scores, it will only enhance the interest of consumers to have additional financial literacy.

Talking about jobs, I have some of these jobs in my State, but I don't consider deceptive practices and keeping Americans from their personal information to be a kind of jobs program. In fact, if anything, not knowing your credit score could be the greatest threat to employment for any given individual. Employers are increasingly using this information to decide whether to hire one person over another.

I came to the Senate floor yesterday to speak about the frequent television commercials and Internet advertisements we have all seen which falsely claim to offer consumers free access to their credit score. Their ads clearly indicate to Americans that their credit score is critical information. What they do not tell you—and I know the Presiding Officer shares some personal experiences with me on this account—is that they want to lure you into a costly monthly monitoring service that can cost hundreds of dollars a year.

What is comical about all this is that credit reporting agency representatives are walking the Halls of Congress as I speak telling Members that our bill is somehow unfair and unfounded. They want to protect a Federal law that has given them a monopoly on these scores and continues to direct unwitting consumers their way. They are using the same tactics of confusion and misdirection to fight our amendment.

We agree with the credit reporting agencies that a credit score is important information, and perhaps their misleading ads, if anything, have convinced consumers they need to know this information. However, luring Americans into a costly credit monitoring service is simply not fair.

As I begin to close, I want to say that we have all come to the floor this week from both sides of the aisle explaining that what we want to do is to protect consumers and to do what is right for Main Street in this important and historic bill we are considering. We have a chance to right this wrong here and now. That is why the Consumer Federation of America, Third Way, the Consumers Union, and a wide range of consumer advocates support this legislation.

While free access to a consumer's credit score is only a small part of the larger reforms that are needed, it addresses one of the fundamental inequities that pervade the financial system.

I wish to thank a group of bipartisan Senators who have held strong amidst the lobbying blitz by these large multi-billion-dollar entities to stand with consumers and cosponsors of my bipartisan amendment. That list includes Senators LUGAR, BOND, COCHRAN, BROWN of Massachusetts, SCHUMER, LIEBERMAN, LEVIN, HAGAN, BROWN of Ohio, SHAHEEN, MCCASKILL, LAUTENBERG, MENENDEZ, TOM UDALL, GILLIBRAND, BURRIS, and BEGICH.

I hope and expect more Members will join us in cosponsoring this amendment and vote for it when it comes up for a vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider en bloc the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: Nos. 832, 833, 834, and 835; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table en bloc, that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

David B. Fein, of Connecticut, to be United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut for the term of four years.

Zane David Memeger, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years.

Clifton Timothy Massanelli, of Arkansas, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Arkansas for the term of four years.

Paul Ward, of North Dakota, to be United States Marshal for the District of North Dakota for the term of four years.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate resumes legislative session.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will stand adjourned until Thursday, 9:30 a.m., May 6.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:46 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 6, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. BURTON M. FIELD

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. JAMES H. RODMAN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. VICTOR M. BECK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. GERALD W. CLUSEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. BRYAN P. CUTCHEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPTAIN KELVIN N. DIXON

CAPTAIN MARTHA E.G. HERB
CAPTAIN BRIAN L. LAROCHE
CAPTAIN LUKE M. MCCOLLUM
CAPTAIN JOHN C. SADLER

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531(A):

To be major

KSHAMATA SKEETE

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

ALAN C. CRANFORD
DIANA A. CRAUN
JEFFERY R. EDGE
JON M. HARRISON
SEVERO V. MARTINEZ
JOHN O. PAYNE
FRANKLIN D. POWELL
MARIA C. POWERS
LISSA-BETH SINGER
WILLIAM A. WARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

ADAM S. COLOMBO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER W. SOIKA

To be lieutenant colonel

DIANE INDYK

To be major

MONESH J. KAPADIA
ANN V. MCKANE
ANITA F. QURESHI
ELIZABETH REMEDIOS

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

JOHN J. KEMERER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5721:

To be lieutenant commander

ROBIN E. ALFONSO

ADRIAN C. BAREFIELD
CHRISTOPHER L. BARNES
BRIAN A. BETHEA
PAUL M. BLODGETT
MARK E. BOAZ
CHRISTOPHER J. CLAY
ERIK D. COPLIN
MICHAEL S. CORBETT
WILLIAM A. DENNIS
RONALD D. DUNCAN
CEDRIC B. EDWARDS
PETER R. FANNO
STANLEY E. FLEMING
LEONARD E. HAYNES
STEPHEN J. HENZ
CHARLES E. JENKINS
JONAS B. KELSALL
ZACHARY S. KING
JOHN J. KINGSBURY
RICHARD I. LAWLOR
JASON N. LESTER
THOMAS L. LOOP
DANNY R. MADISON
CHARLES B. MYERS IV
GEORGE S. PETERSSEN
JOSEPH J. PISONI
NATHAN L. ROWAN
JEREMY P. SCHAUB
ANDREW J. SERVAE
WILLIAM A. SHAFER
TODD R. SMITH
KIRK A. SOWERS
NATHANIEL THOMPSON
KENNETH A. WALLER, JR.
CHADRIK O. WITHROW

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate, Wednesday, May 5, 2010:

THE JUDICIARY

NANCY D. FREUDENTHAL, OF WYOMING, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING.

DENZIL PRICE MARSHALL JR., OF ARKANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS.

GLORIA M. NAVARRO, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DAVID B. FEIN, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

ZANE DAVID MEMEGER, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

CLIFTON TIMOTHY MASSANELLI, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

PAUL WARD, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.